



CROSSTALK

NEWSLETTER OF THE W6TRW
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Volume 34 Number 1

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UNITED WE STAND



*WELCOME NEW ELECTED OFFICERS FOR
2002*

PRESIDENT - WENDELL KE6ASC
VICE PRESIDENT - GREG N6RRY
SECRETARY - WENDY KQ6CG
TREASURER - JASON KD6ELS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

For Sale: Ten Tec Omni VI with plus upgrade, \$1100.
Kenwood TS-60, 90 watt 6 meter all mode, \$500.
Bill Shanney, W6QR. Phone 310-813-8159 daytime.

[Duane Park, WA6EIK Crosstalk Editor/Webmaster](#)

In This issue:

- 2001 ARRL 10 meter contest – Page 3
- AO-40 in dead zone officially – Page 4
- Kevin Mitnick Amateur License renewal request – Page 5
- Hams retain 219-220 mhz – Page 8

W6TRW ARC Monthly Calendar of Events

Third Tuesday of each month	5:30 pm	Executive Board Meeting, R4/2020f (All Club Members are invited)
Second Tuesday of each month	5:30pm	Club Meeting Round Table Pizza, (Redondo Bch. & Hawthorne)
Second Tuesday of each month	12:00 noon	Emergency Communications Team Meeting R3 Emergency Operations Center
Last Saturday of each month (Rain or Shine & Holidays)	7:00 am	W6TRW/ARC Swap Meet Marine and Aviation (Southeast Corner)
During the Swapmeet	10:00 am	VE Sessions in Cafeteria

Weekly Events

Every Monday Night (Except the 1st & Holidays)	7:30 pm	Disaster Communication Systems (DCS) Net DCS Members: Check in on 2 Meter Repeater
Every Wednesday	12:00 noon	ECT Net on 2 meter Repeater All Amateurs Welcome
Every Thursday	7:00 pm	Space Hams Net on 2 meter Repeater with N6SHI and W6EKK
Every Mon, Wed, Fri	2:00 pm	W6TRW Retirees Net 7185 KHz
Every Friday Morning	7:30 am	W6TRW Amateur Radio Club Breakfast Building S Cafeteria - Everyone is invited Talk-in on 2 Meters

Other Ham Swap meets:

El Cajon ARC - 1st Sat. ea. mo. 6:00 AM @ Santee Drive-in Theater, Woodside Ave. @ Hwy 67 in Santee Talk-in 146.52

Inland Empire ARC - 2nd Sat. ea. mo. 7:00 to 11:30 AM @ A.B. Miller High School, Walnut & Oleander in Fontana Talk-in 145.480 (-600 pl=77.0hz)

CA Microwave Relay Assoc. at CAL POLY - 3rd Sat. ea. mo. 7-11am in lots F8,F9 and F10 @ CAL Poly Pomona at 3801 West Temple.

W6TRW 10 Meter Contest Results by Jim K6OUE

W6TRW participated in the 2001 ARRL 10 meter contest this past Dec. 15 and 16. The ARRL 10 meter contest is the most popular amateur radio contest (except for Field Day, which is not supposed to be a contest anyway). I think its popularity comes from several factors, you only have to worry about one band which makes it simpler, and at 10 meters the average ham can have a decent antenna which is much more difficult at 80 or 160 meters. It is great to hear practically the entire 10m band filled with hams during that weekend. You can easily work all 50 states in one weekend, and grab a lot of interesting countries. The 10m contest was originally meant only for USA and Canada operators, the exchange in the contest is your state or province and signal report. But many foreign hams like to participate now (particularly Japan) so the foreign operators give you a contact serial number instead of a state. The contest is 48 hours, from 0000 UTC Saturday to 2400 UTC Sunday. However, you are only allowed to operate 36 hours (you have to sleep sometime!). This is really not a problem since 10 meters generally goes dead at night.

We operated from the W6TRW station in the building S shack so we had use of the tower on building S and the Yaesu FT1000 and Alpha 1.5 kW amplifier. We only had three operators (Jim K6OUE, Rod KE6PI, and Robert KF6II) and only operated 13 hours out of the 48 so our results are not spectacular, but we had fun. I (K6OUE) took the first shift from 0000 to 0400 UTC (4PM to 8PM PST Friday evening). It was very busy with stations from pretty much the whole US and Canada including Alaska and Hawaii and a few stations in South and Latin America. Nothing heard from Europe, compared to a couple years ago at the sun spot peak when I was getting right into the heart of Europe. As it got later, dozens of Japanese stations came in, along with a smattering from Australia. At 7:30 PM the entire band went completely dead and I couldn't even hear any local stations.

As an experiment we used WriteLog as the computer logging program. The idea was to try it out to see if it might be a good replacement for CT that we have used in the past and if it might be good for Field Day. It turned out to be very easy to use and very reliable. WriteLog is a Windows program whereas CT only needs DOS.

Our results are shown below. Look for all of the results to be published in the September 2002 issue of QST magazine.

Mode	QSO's	Points/QSO	Total points
SSB	285	2	570
CW	10	4	40
Total	295		610

Mode	States	Provinces	Countries	Total
SSB	41	6	16	63
CW	1	1	2	4
Total	42	7	18	67

Final score = Total points times total states+provinces+countries = 610 X 67 = 40870

FCC ASKS BROADCASTER, POWER COMPANY TO HELP CURE WEIRD INTERFERENCE

Reprinted from the ARRL Letter Vol. 21 #1

The FCC has written a Cincinnati AM radio station and the electric utility serving that region to help resolve an unusual and longstanding interference situation affecting local amateurs. Sharon Bowers of the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau in December wrote Clear Channel-owned WLW and Cinergy Corp citing numerous reports of apparently spurious signals associated with WLW transmissions that have been monitored over a wide area and frequency range.

"Many of these reports indicate that, although the noise is associated with WLW transmissions, the strongest signals appear to be originating some distance from the WLW transmitter site, possibly on a high-voltage tower owned by Cinergy Corp," Bowers wrote. The FCC said the circumstances suggest that multiple sources of interference are involved. According to the FCC database, WLW operates on 700 kHz with 50,000 W into a single, top-loaded half-wave vertical tower.

One of the amateurs affected--Bob Reiff, WA8ULW, of Mason, where WLW's tower is sited--said that while the noise is most noticeable on 160 meters, it's showing up elsewhere. "It is pervasive in the spectrum," Reiff told ARRL, "and, we suspect, it is causing us problems even on our 2-meter repeater."

The FCC said that Reiff and the other complainants attempted unsuccessfully for the past two years to work with WLW and Cinergy.

Bowers noted that WLW and Cinergy already have "expended considerable efforts" to locate the noise source and cause, but the noise remained "as strong as ever according to recent reports." She noted that the noise became intermittent after some recent work done on a Cinergy high-voltage tower, and she expressed the FCC's appreciation for the cooperation to date. But, Bowers admonished, the FCC expects the responsible party to address any reports causing harmful interference to a licensed radio service.

"While the Commission recognizes that this is an unusual case, and the source could turn out to be something unexpected," Bowers wrote, "the Commission is turning to the radio station and electric utility company, asking for your help and cooperation in finding the source of the noise."

Ohio ARRL Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, credited the activities of the Greater Cincinnati Local Interference Committee with helping to bring the interference case to the FCC's attention.

AO-40 "OFFICIALLY IN THE 'DEAD ZONE'"

Reprinted from the ARRL Letter Vol. 21 #1

AO-40 satellite ground controllers have begun adjusting the spacecraft's attitude as it enters a period of unfavorable sun angles. AO-40 command station team member Stacey Mills, W4SM, says that AO-40's operating schedule has been modified slightly to reflect the decreasing attitude longitude (ALON).

"As expected, the satellite has lost sun sensor lock, so we are now officially in the 'dead zone'," Mills reported. The satellite is currently in a long period during which Earth eclipses the sun near perigee--its point closest to Earth. These periods will continue well into next June.

(AO-40 "OFFICIALLY IN THE 'DEAD ZONE'" cont.)

The satellite relies on solar panels for its power. In late November, Mills said that necessary adjustments to AO-40's attitude to compensate for unfavorable sun angles over the next several months would lead to some down time for the spacecraft's transponders. The attitude shifting necessary to compensate for the unfavorable sun angle will leave AO-40's antennas pointing away from Earth for several weeks.

To save power, the transponder passbands were being turned off at various times, and the RUDAK digital transponder was scheduled to be off for up to five days.

Mills has said there will be periods of no transponder activity and a much longer period of limited--but progressively increasing--transponder activity. "AO-40 command stations will make every effort to activate AO-40's transponders, even if for only a short time each orbit, when conditions are appropriate," he said. Mills said he anticipated being able to keep the transponders active through the eclipse period for an hour or so right after perigee.

Yoshi Takeyasu, JA6XKQ, of the JAMSAT SCOPE team, recently announced the release of several new photos taken by the SCOPE cameras aboard AO-40. The photos are available on the JAMSAT Web site <<http://www.jamsat.or.jp/scope/011215/>>.

For more information on AO-40, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site <<http://www.amsat.org/>>.

FCC ACTS ON OCTOBER 15, 2001, VANITY APPLICATIONS

Reprinted from the ARRL Letter Vol. 21 #2

The vanity call sign logjam has begun to break up. The FCC granted 27 vanity call signs January 9, based on applications received last October 15. Prior to this week, the FCC had not issued any new vanity call signs since October 30.

FCC policy gives paper and electronically filed vanity applications equal priority. Mail problems due to the recent anthrax scare delayed some applications filed on paper and sent to Washington, DC, for decontamination. As a result, vanity processing has been on hold since last fall.

FCC Licensing Branch personnel recently have been attempting to obtain new paperwork from applicants, however. All vanity fee payments have been recorded and deposited or charged to credit card holders' accounts. The FCC has been using vanity fee payment data from the FCC's fiscal agent, Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh to contact applicants directly to have them resubmit their applications.

The FCC has a record of when it receives all vanity applications. Once the Commission has all paper and electronic applications for a given date, all submittals will be processed in chronological order.

In mid-November, the Gettysburg office began diverting mail addressed to its 1270 Fairfield Road location to another site in town for special handling, and decontamination now is being handled locally. Since October 19, the FCC has been urging all of its customers to avoid using the mails to conduct business with the agency and to use electronic means to file comments or applications.

The FCC has been acting on amateur renewals and administrative updates filed on-line via the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Universal Licensing System. As of December 3, all applicants must include an FCC Registration Number (FRN) when filing.

FCC DESIGNATES COMPUTER HACKER'S HAM TICKET RENEWAL FOR HEARING

Reprinted from the ARRL Letter Vol. 21 #1

Citing character issues, the FCC has designated for hearing the Amateur Radio license renewal application of convicted computer hacker Kevin D. Mitnick, N6NHG. Mitnick's history of illegal computer-related activity--which includes several convictions and prison sentences--dates back more than a decade. Not long after his latest US District Court conviction in August 1999, Mitnick filed with the FCC to renew his General ticket.

"Mr. Mitnick's criminal background raises a substantial and material question of whether he possesses the requisite character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee," the FCC said in a Hearing Designation Order released December 21. "Given his propensity to engage in criminal activities, particularly those involving fraud, we have serious reservations about Mr. Mitnick's ability to comply with our rules and regulations in the future."

Mitnick, 38, has been licensed for about 25 years. In 1999, Mitnick was sentenced to 46 months in federal prison, the FCC said, after pleading guilty to wire fraud, computer fraud and illegally intercepting a wire communication--all felonies. Prior to that, the FCC Order stated, he'd received a 22-month term for possessing cloned cell phones and for violating his supervised release after a 1989 conviction for computer fraud. He's currently on probation following his January 2001 release from federal prison.

This is not the first time that the FCC has attempted to apply character issues to a ham radio license renewal case. In designating Mitnick's license renewal for hearing, the FCC invoked the case of Herbert Schoenbohm, ex-KV4FZ, whose lengthy efforts to renew his amateur license were scuttled on the basis of character issues that, in part, stemmed from a 1992 federal fraud conviction.

The Order also referenced the case of Leslie Brewer, ex-KC4HAZ, whose license was revoked and a fine levied last year after the FCC said he lacked the basic character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee on the basis of his "pirate radio and other unlawful activities."

Mitnick's license expired December 12, 1999, but he may continue to operate until action is taken on his renewal application. The FCC's Order is available on the FCC Web site
<http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2001/db1221/fcc01359.doc>.

NEW ISS AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA TO BE INSTALLED DURING SPACEWALK

Reprinted from the ARRL Letter Vol. 21 #2

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, has announced that one of the four new ARISS antennas will be installed during a scheduled January 14 spacewalk--or EVA. Two crew members will attach the "WA3" model VHF-UHF flexible tape antenna on one end of the ISS Service Module.

"The Russian team is able to deploy this particular antenna sooner than the others because it is located very close to where the four RF connections go into the Service Module," Bauer said.

Expedition Four Commander Yuri Onufrienko, RK3DUO, and flight engineers Carl Walz, KC5TIE, and Dan Bursch, KD5PNU, are beginning their second month in orbit aboard the ISS. They have not yet been active on Amateur Radio, although several ARISS school contacts are pending. Onufrienko and Walz will carry out the EVA. NASA says the two will move a Russian cargo crane to the Russian Functional Cargo Block--or Zarya--for future assembly work. According to NASA, Bursch will operate the Canadarm2 robotic arm from inside the space station "and act as spacewalk choreographer."

Installation of the new antenna on the Service Module paves the way for two separate ham stations aboard Space Station Alpha. Plans call for one station to remain in the Functional Cargo Block using the Russian antennas that had been used to dock the FGB but are now used for ARISS. A second station will be set up in the Service Module--or Zvezda--using the new antenna.

"The installation of this first antenna on the outside of Zvezda will allow the crew to set up ham radio equipment in their living quarters," said Bauer, who's also chief of the Guidance, Navigation and Control Center at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center Maryland. The initial station ham gear was installed aboard the Zarya module because that module went into space first.

"The Zarya location worked well," Bauer said, "but this new setup is much more comfortable and convenient and should allow for more contact between the crew and Amateur Radio operators and schools on Earth." The other three antennas will be installed later this year.--ARISS; NASA

FCC REALLOCATION RETAINS AMATEUR RADIO'S 219-220 MHZ SLOT

Reprinted from the ARRL Letter Vol. 21 #2

Amateur Radio's secondary allocation at 219-220 MHz remains intact in the wake of an FCC spectrum reallocation of the 216 to 220-MHz band, among others. The FCC declined, however, to go along with ARRL's request to expand amateur access to 216 to 220 MHz. On a brighter note, the Commission potentially relieved spectrum competition for Amateur Radio at 2.3 GHz by making space available elsewhere.

The FCC acted December 21, 2001, in ET Docket 00-221 and in several other proceedings that it lumped into a single Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order released January 2, 2002. The FCC Order reallocated 27 MHz of spectrum in seven bands from government to non-government use. Some of the spectrum will be put up for bid in public auctions. The Commission allocated the 216-220 MHz band to the fixed and mobile services (co-primary), although some government systems in the band will remain.

"We are pleased that the FCC has found suitable spectrum for MicroTrax and AeroAstro other than at 2300-2305 MHz," ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, referring to two commercial competitors. "We hope this will clear the way for an upgrade to primary status at 2300-2305 MHz for the Amateur Service."

MicroTrax has sought access to 2300 to 2305 MHz and other bands for a proposed Personal Location and Monitoring System to enable tracking of people and objects. AeroAstro has proposed sharing the band with amateurs on a co-primary basis for its Satellite Enabled Notification System global messaging system. Both indicated interest in the 1670-1675-MHz band; MicroTrax also has said that 2385-2390 MHz might be a good fit. The FCC also noted comments from ArrayCom that the 1670-1675-MHz band would be suitable for its i-BURST high-speed data system, now operating experimentally at 2.3 GHz.

Sumner was less enthusiastic about the FCC's action at 216-220 MHz as it impacts the Amateur Service. "While the limited secondary allocation to the Amateur Service at 219-220 MHz is being maintained, the more intensive use of 216-220 MHz by commercial services is likely to preclude amateur use of the band in many parts of the country," he commented.

The amateur allocation at 219-220 MHz is secondary to the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System (AMTS). Within the 1 MHz of spectrum, Amateurs may install and operate point-to-point digital message-forwarding systems, but only under strict limitations that require coordination with and sometimes approval by AMTS licensees. The ARRL had hoped to expand opportunities for point-to-point digital messaging systems, but the FCC said amateurs already have access to other bands for that purpose and denied the request.

The Order in ET Docket 00-221 is available on the FCC Web site
<http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Orders/2001/fcc01382.pdf>

W6TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Wendell Young	KE6ASC	R3 / 1086	(310) 813-2622
Vice President	Greg Martens	N6RRY	M1 / 1275	(310) 813-4049
Secretary	Wendy Crawford	KQ6CG	Carson	(310) 513-2060
Treasurer	Jason Fujino	KD6ELS	R5 / 2130	(310) 812-5461

APPOINTED STAFF

447 Repeater Autopatch	Duane Park	WA6EIK	O1 / 1070	(310) 813-4219
Activities Chairperson	Mike Hamada	KF6UCN	M5 / 0435	(310) 814-2628
Crosstalk Editor	Duane Park	WA6EIK	O1 / 1070	(310) 813-4219
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Librarian	Dave Nelson	AB6DU	DH4 / 1423G	(310) 764-3496
Membership Chairperson	Wendy Crawford	KQ6CG		(310) 513-2060
Past President	Bob Briggs	KD6WYQ	O1 / 1270	(310) 813-2622
Publicity Chairperson	Dave Nelson	AB6DU	R8 / 2144	(310) 813-9775
QSL Manager	Bryan DeAro	KN6OW	120 / 1020B	(310) 812-4789
S.P. Packet/Internet Sysop	Chris Wachs	WA2KDL	M4 / 2375	(310) 813-1506
SEA Representative	Chris Wachs	WA2KDL	M4 / 2375	(310) 813-1506
Swap Meet Manager	Greg Martens	N6RRY	M1 / 1275	(310) 813-4049
Technical Chairperson	John Cheatham	KE6OJM	R9 / 2477	(310) 813-5903
Training Chairperson	Bryan DeAro	KN6OW	120 / 1020B	(310) 812-4789
Trustee of W6TRW License	Elizabeth Kunkee	KS4IS	D1 / 1024	(310) 813-0524
W6TRW COMM Webmaster	Duane Park	WA6EIK	O1 / 1070	(310) 813-4219

BOLD=NEW

W6TRW ARC Hotline (Club Answering Machine)	(310) 813-8569
W6TRW 2 Meter Repeater (Open Repeater)	145.32 (-600) PL 114.8Hz
W6TRW UHF Repeater (Open Repeater / Closed Autopatch)	447.00 (-5 MHz) PL 100 Hz
W6TRW-3 Packet Radio Internet Gateway and BBS (1200 Baud Port)	146.745 (-600)

W6TRW Internet Home Page

<http://www.w6trw.com/>

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FIRST CLASS

Deliver To:

